

In 1991, Wellington Webb was elected mayor of Denver and is the first African American to hold this office. He led our city through an era that has been characterized as a time of vision, energy, progress and economic transformation. Under his leadership, Denver's open space has increased by approximately fifty percent. Denver's economic turnaround during the 1990's is considered a national model. Mayor Webb's commitment to children and education spurred city investment into initiatives including the Safe City Program and the Summer Youth Employment Program. He stood up to violence in our community on numerous occasions and continually affirmed tolerance as a essential civic value. Mayor Webb has brought a passion for the Arts dedicating both time and resources to making our city a leading cultural center. He implemented some of the nations' most progressive historic preservation policies and our city has witnessed the economic benefits resulting from the preservation of Denver's historic core.

During his tenure, Mayor Webb led successful ballot initiatives to enhance our economic vitality and quality of life including expansion of the Colorado Convention Center and the Denver Zoo, renovation of the Quigg Newton Auditorium and construction of the Pepsi Center and INVESCO Field at Mile High. The expansion of the Denver Central Public Library and construction of the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library and the Webb Municipal Building are also to his credit. Additionally, Mayor Webb promoted the redevelopment of the former Stapleton Airport and Lowry Air Force Base sites—two of the largest in-fill projects in the country—as well as guided the transformation of Central Platte Valley.

During his tenure, Denver International Airport established a reputation as one of the best run airports in the world which has enhanced the ability of existing firms to do business internationally and contributes to the region's ability to attract new businesses on a global scale. Mayor Webb led trade missions to China, Africa, Mexico and Europe to encourage investment and business development between nations. Under his leadership, Denver hosted World Youth Day with Pope John Paul II and hosted President Clinton and other world leaders for the Denver Summit of the Eight, an event that helped to put Denver on the global map.

Mayor Webb has held several prominent national positions including most recently, President of the United States Conference of Mayors. Magazines including Newsweek, Fortune and Ebony have recognized him as one of our nation's most influential civic leaders. He continues to collaborate closely with his wife, former six-term Colorado State Representative, Wilma J. Webb. As Denver's First Lady, she has worked on various issues impacting our youth and families. She previously served as the Secretary's Representatives for Region VIII of the U.S. Department of Labor and has chaired various governmental groups, represented the city at public and private meetings and hosted national and international dignitaries.

Wellington Webb's tenure as Mayor of the City and County of Denver is quickly drawing to a close. He has worked to preserve and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods' and has been the catalyst for major civic enterprises and economic development undertakings in our city. The success Denver has enjoyed in recent years has been due, in large measure, to Mayor Webb's efforts in culti-

vating a shared vision and promoting inclusion. His leadership has been exemplary and his contributions are rich in consequence. On behalf of the citizens of the 1st Congressional District, I wish to express our gratitude and look forward to his continued involvement in our civic life.

Please join me in commending Mayor Wellington E. Webb, a distinguished public servant. It is the strong leadership he exhibits on a daily basis which continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to business in my district, I was unable to vote during rollcall vote No. 396. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE LIFE OF CARL MCLLOY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Carl McLlroy and all he has done for this Nation and East Vincent Township.

Carl McLlroy, a veteran of the Korean War, dedicated much of his life ensuring that the history of our Nation and our community was displayed in a manner we could all be proud of. As chairman of the East Vincent Historical Commission, Carl initiated efforts to restore a burial plot of 22 Revolutionary War soldiers, which is now known in our community as the Revolutionary Soldiers Cemetery. He spent countless hours manicuring, grooming, placing flags and planting flowers. Under his careful watch, a sign was placed above its entrance, a flagpole was erected and a wall was refurbished, all with Carl doing much of the work himself. He labored long and hard to turn this neglected treasure into a shrine that truly embraces the importance of the cause for which these soldiers died. Each year during Independence Day, our community gathers at the historic cemetery to honor the 22 soldiers that are buried there and celebrate the freedoms for which they fought.

On July 4, 2003, Carl McLlroy was honored with the 22 soldiers at the Revolutionary Soldiers Cemetery and a plaque was unveiled that pays special tribute to him and all of his efforts. I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebrating the life and achievements of Mr. McLlroy. He was an exemplary citizen and a faithful patriot and he will truly be missed.

HONORING THE D.C. REDWINGS YOUTH PROGRAM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the D.C. Redwings Youth Program for its ex-

traordinary contributions to this Community as well as to inner city children. In only five short years, the D.C. Redwings have produced many of the Nation's top young athletes in the realm of track and field while preparing these youths for a more successful, rewarding life.

Although this program is primarily a sports-based organization, it also encourages youths to focus on education, community service and cultural awareness. Off the track, members are required to attend study hall and participate in various community outreach projects. The Redwings Program uses track and field as well as cross-country running as a vehicle to teach discipline, goal-setting and teamwork for youths, many of whom would be considered "at risk." Furthermore, the team incorporates book clubs, SAT preparation courses and academic enrichment classes in order to develop well-rounded students and encourage further education.

Since its founding, D.C. Redwings Youth Program has produced many junior Olympians, nationally ranked athletes, and All-American runners while fostering an invaluable sense of success and accomplishment in all aspects of their lives. An impressive thirty-eight athletes qualified and competed in the AAU Track and Field Junior Olympics this year alone. The team's success has generated numerous national titles and has turned this relatively small team into one with great promise. The talented athletes repeatedly surpass the expectations of both supporters and competitors.

This season has yielded less than ideal circumstances due to both weather and security, but these conditions clearly illustrate the team's commitment and determination for the sport. After study hall, these youngsters would train in freezing temperatures, pouring rain and a foot of snow. Even during weeks of police-supervised practice and the hunt for D.C.'s serial sniper, when all other athletic and extracurricular activities were discontinued, the Redwings carried on with practice as usual. All throughout this ordeal, the team persistently demonstrated their passion, and their commitment set them apart from the rest.

Mr. Speaker, the D.C. Redwing Youth Program has quickly established itself as one of the most respectable organizations for inner city children. Their track and field team as well as their cross country team command national respect for their talent and enthusiasm. Moreover, the Redwings remain the only independent youth track team in D.C., and we should be proud to have them represent our city. The organization's head coach and founder, Mr. Desmond L. Dunham, deserves our deepest thanks for his dedication to these athletes' future. It is my honor to recognize the Redwings for their unrelenting commitment in improving so many lives.

HONORING THE GREATER RACINE AREA

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 230, which honors the ten communities that received the National Civic League's All-America City

Award for 2003. As the latest recipients of the prestigious 54-year-old award, these communities embody the spirit of American democracy by demonstrating how cooperation between citizens, businesses, volunteer organizations, and local government leads to the resolution of the critical problems facing America's cities.

I am extremely proud to represent the Greater Racine Area, an All-America city and a tremendous asset to Wisconsin's First Congressional District. Over the past few years, the citizens of Racine and the surrounding area have worked diligently to implement multiple initiatives that have positively impacted the lives of those who live in Racine County. For example, the Racine Area Intergovernmental Sanitary Sewer Service, Revenue Sharing, Cooperation and Settlement Agreement is an initiative that uses revenue from Racine's outlying communities to make improvements to the city's wastewater treatment infrastructure and enhance the city's cultural attractions such as its zoo, fine arts museum and library. A second initiative, the West Sixth Street Revitalization effort involves the participation of citizens, local businesses and government to help rebuild run-down homes in the inner city. Finally, the Racine County Youth As Resources (YAR) program is an exemplary project that encourages young people to take an active role in improving their own neighborhoods. This program provides grants for youth-led community service projects such as neighborhood cleanup programs, educational programs and services for the elderly.

I commend the citizens of the Greater Racine Area for their dedication to improving their community and applaud their willingness to employ innovative methods and basic American ideals toward the achievement of that goal. Racine, Wisconsin is truly a role model for other communities to follow and a deserving recipient of the 2003 All-America City Award. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 230, honoring the Greater Racine Area and the other nine communities that symbolize America's strong tradition of embracing civic responsibility and upholding the tenets of democracy.

CONGRATULATING DOROTHY
KONICHEK FOR DISTINGUISHED
CIVIC SERVICE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise before you today to honor Dorothy Konichek for her commendable service to the community of Prairie du Chien. Mrs. Konichek is celebrating her 80th birthday and has been a citizen of Prairie du Chien for 64 of those years. As we celebrate this special day, we must also honor Mrs. Konichek for her distinguished citizenship and service.

She has an unbelievable dedication to serving her community and has extended her goodwill to many organizations. Mrs. Konichek has given countless hours to the seniors in her community by volunteering at the Care Center. She eagerly offers her generosity and kindness of heart to ensure that the well-being of the senior members of Prairie du Chien is

met. She has tirelessly given her time at the Meadow Lane Group Home for the developmentally disabled and has eagerly taken on leadership positions in her church and community that have contributed to the welfare of Prairie du Chien's youth.

I am proud to congratulate Dorothy Konichek on the celebration of her 80th birthday. It is important that we all recognize and commend her for her remarkable character and distinguished citizenship. Her commitment to service has supported the community of Prairie du Chien for 64 years. Mrs. Konichek embodies a standard of service that can be appreciated by all who live in the State of Wisconsin.

Alma Center, WI, June 22, 2003.

Representative RON KIND,

House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KIND: My mother, Dorothy Konichek, long time resident of Prairie du Chien, will be celebrating her 80th birthday on July 28, 2003. She has been a valuable citizen of Wisconsin for about 78 years and a resident Prairie du Chien for 64 of those years.

I am requesting from your office a Letter of Commendation for her years of giving to the people of Prairie du Chien, making it a better city in which to live. No, these are not the types of things that will get you in the local paper but people doing these types of things are what make for healthy communities.

Here are the reasons why I feel such a commendation is in order.

Den mother with the Boy Scouts; Girl Scout leader; Sunday School teacher in her local church; her many hours of service to the developmentally disabled at the Meadow Lane group home; volunteering at the Care Center; looking after many elderly persons throughout the years, cleaning their homes and providing meals; being there with a listening ear for more people than I could count; and taking people for groceries who do not drive.

The list could go on and on. My mother is truly a person who loves and cares for the people around her never asking for anything in return. I'm sure you will agree that people like this are what make for a strong community. I feel she has helped to make Prairie du Chien a better place to live.

Thank you for considering my request. Her five children are hosting an open house for her on July 19th, at the Faith Evangelical Free Church, in Prairie du Chien, from 1:30-4:30, with a special program being held at 2 p.m. If you feel you can honor my request, the letter would be presented at that time. You may write me at the above address or e-mail me.

Thank you for your response.

Sincerely yours,

MARY (KONICHEK) MANDIGO.

SALUTING BEN CURTIS, BRITISH
OPEN CHAMPION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2003

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, up until yesterday, when golf fans spoke of "Ben," they probably meant Ben Hogan, one of the game's legends. But today another "Ben" stands atop the world of golf—Ben Curtis, the 2003 champion of the British Open.

Ben is a 26-year-old rookie on the PGA Tour who learned the game at the Mill Creek

Golf Club, built by his late grandfather northwest of Columbus in Ostrander, Ohio, which his family still operates. Obviously, he learned well.

Ben, who has yet to win on the PGA tour, entered the British Open, in his words, "just trying to play the best I could." His best turned out to be good enough to beat some of golf's best, including Davis Love III, Vijay Singh and Tiger Woods. His one-under-par, 283-stroke total for the four-day tournament made him the first player since Francis Ouimet at the 1913 U.S. Open to win a major championship on his first try.

I had the opportunity to become acquainted with Ben's grandparents, Bill and Myrtie Black. Bill, who died this past February, taught Ben the game. Ben's father is the golf course superintendent at Mill Creek. Family and friends were on hand at the clubhouse yesterday to watch Ben play on television. His victory was one that anyone from small town America, or who grew up with parents that instilled values and work ethic, can appreciate.

An impossible dream? For Ben Curtis, obviously not. Instead, his improbable British Open victory was a dream come true. I join with Ben's family and friends and the entire golfing world in saluting his outstanding accomplishment. It definitely will not be his last.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: July 17, 2003, rollcall vote 382, on agreeing to the Gallegly Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 383, on agreeing to the Rahall Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 384, on agreeing to the Udall Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 385, on agreeing to the Holt Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 386, on agreeing to the Inslee Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 387, on agreeing to the Bereuter Amendment, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 388, on agreeing to Taylor Amendment to the Udall Amendment, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 389, on passage of the FY 2004 Interior Appropriations bill, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 390, on the motion to instruct conferees for the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act, I would have voted "no." July 18, 2003, rollcall vote 391, on agreeing to the Andrews Amendment, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 392, on agreeing to the Udall Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 393, on agreeing to the Hefley Amendment, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 394, on the motion to recommit the FY 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 395, on passage of the FY 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, I would have voted "yea." Rollcall vote 396, on the motion to instruct conferees for the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act, I would have voted "no." Rollcall vote 397, on the motion to table the resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House, I would have voted "yea."